

BAR HARBOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

(unofficial record of an unofficial meeting)

10 March, 2008 – Municipal Building Meeting Room

Present: Jill Weber, Chair; Members: Enoch Albert, Mary Ann Handel; Others: Peter Lord, Anne Krieg, John Kelley

Not a quorum present; therefore no votes, etc.

I. CALL TO ORDER (unofficial due to lack of quorum): 7:05 PM

II. EXCUSED ABSENCES: Anne Wheeler

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – postponed due to lack of quorum

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA – postponed due to lack of quorum

V. OLD BUSINESS DISCUSSION

A. 2008 Work Plan/Review of Planning Board Meeting: This was read with a positive reaction from Planning Board. Kevin Cochary asked about other watersheds, Indian Point watershed, specifically. Another issue was that we should keep up to date on vernal pool ordinance and project. John Kelley spoke about Dark Skies. Town of Mt Desert will go forward with a slightly modified simple version. SWH also considering a “high level” one like BH. Surrey is also looking at the simple version. They also asked us to address proper disposal of CF bulbs, should contact Lowe’s and Home Depot (now we take to Paradis and McEachern). Also it was asked why we don’t do more plastic recycling – we need to revisit this annually, as price and volume change. They also asked about certification of green building practice; should we look into certifying bodies and compare. Waterless urinals also generated discussion and enthusiasm. So, the Big Question is what to do with the extra items; Mary Ann and Enoch suggested that we put them into the category of Other Items We May Choose to Work On. Anne reminded us that this is a fiscal year plan, not a calendar year plan. Jill suggests we send it off to Council with a note that we have discussed it with our governing board.

B. Northeast Creek Brochure: Jill submitted proposal to Downeast Audubon for money for the NE Creek brochure; they had some edits (focus on importance of Creek as wildlife habitat, etc.). ANP also has some substantive changes. These are good ideas, and should enable us to get funding for this venture.

C. Dark Skies: Discussion and review of Peter Lord’s materials ensued. DRB expressed interest and desire to be in the loop on this. Last Thursday, John, Peter and Anne met to begin development. Peter has adapted a lot of existing from the current ordinance (site plan review and design review) to produce a “rich and quick stew” that was distributed to us. Ordinance changes go to Planning Board on April 16 (including PUD); this gives us a target date. Anne needs material for packet on April 4. So we could work further, skipping DDRB this week, but doing March 27 – but neither Peter nor Mary Ann are here then. DRB meets again on April 10. Con Com needs to approve this on April 14. Anne thinks the current draft is too premature for DRB this week. (They are actively re-writing their sign ordinance.) We discussed the issues DRB brought up: less light, regulation of façade lighting, regulation of Town lighting, and a sunset clause. Peter feels that DRB is actively doing much of what will be in the ordinance. We discussed several issues of clarity that will be reflected in the next drafts, including string lights (for businesses, for holiday lighting), a

brochure (John mentioned there will be one for Scenic Byway), issues of internal conflict resulting from merging old ordinance with new language (including sunset versus grandfather clauses, maybe one for business and one for residential – problem being that the Town would not be able to afford changing lighting in the 8 yrs of the proposed sunset clause; should churches be exempt (OK to exempt steeple lighting but want to avoid mega-churches with more lighting than Lowe's; but there is Federal regulation of church land use – Mary Ann proposed putting churches into grandfather clause, but eliminating them from exceptions clause). We also discussed a new concept: water front lighting.

At this point we re-visited the schedule. Anne and John suggested they meet with Peter to take this to next stage. DRB packet needed on 4 April; pkt to Planning Board is 11th – the same material can go out to all. Big overall goal is to Council in June. THUS, the schedule will be: one or two meetings (Anne, Peter, John) required before April 4, and then follow-up meetings after material reviewed by Con Comm (April 14) DRB (April 10) and Planning (April 16). Then another draft before the second round of reviews in May: Con Com May 12, Planning Board May 21 and DRB on 22nd (schedule for this should account for Anne gone April 24 to May 3). Packets and agendas for this round goes out May 7. This will get it to Council on June 17, which will get it on ballot for fall (order for Nov is signed in July).

D. New member search: Jill spoke with Tim Fuller who might be interested, but doesn't want to take initiatives. We decided we would invite him to observe a meeting

E. Composters: 23 orders already in. It was suggested that if we didn't get to an even 20 or multiple thereof, we talk with other groups. We might need to decide if we are going to pay to order extra to make it up to a 20. Order deadline is April 11, but order doesn't get submitted until after our next meeting. The demo composter is traveling around the island.

VI. NEW BUSINESS DISCUSSION

A. Staff Reports: None, but we did discuss the Bridge Street access issue, which confirms public right of way to water (part of Com Plan). Will continue this with Clark Cove (across from EBS) and Indian Point (Town Landing Road).

B. Awards Planning: We need to move on this. No cost, as we will just give a certificate. We should write a memo to Planning Board (in form of email to Anne) that we wish to choose an organization and an individual for certificate.

VII. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Cool Cities
Dark Skies approval
Composter final report

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: 8:50PM